

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A mat fastener for connection to a floor mat of an automobile comprising:

- a. a male grommet made of a resin material;
- b. a female grommet made of a resin material;
- c. the female grommet having an outer tube portion having opposite open ends and adapted to be inserted into a hole formed in the floor mat;
- d. the female grommet having a flange formed at an outer periphery of one of the ends of the outer tube portion and being adapted to be in contact with one side surface of the mat, the outer tube portion projecting axially beyond the flange of the female grommet for insertion into the hole formed in the floor mat;
- e. the male grommet having an inner tube portion having opposite open ends and adapted to be inserted into the outer tube portion of the female grommet and a flange formed at an outer periphery of one of the ends of the inner tube portion;

- f. the flang of the male grommet adapted to be in contact with another side surface of the mat; wherein:
- g. each of the outer and inner tube portions is provided with an engagement means for coupling the female and male grommets to each other so that, upon engagement thereof, one of the flanges of the grommets is adapted to be brought into contact with one of the side surfaces of the mat around the mat hole and the other flange of the grommets is adapted to be brought into contact with the other side surface of the mat, whereby the mat fastener is fastened to the mat with the mat sandwiched between the flanges;
- h. one of the flanges of the male and female grommets has a larger outside dimension than that of the other thereof;
- i. each of the flanges has an outer peripheral portion formed in a curve shape to be directed toward the mat to allow each of the flanges to bite into the mat when the male and female grommets are coupled to each other by the engagement means;
- j. the flange of the female grommet has an annular concavity surrounding the tube portion of the female grommet; and

k. wherein the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of radial, circumferentially spaced stiffening ribs formed in the concavity between the tube portion and the outer peripheral portion of the female grommet.

13. (Previously presented) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 12, wherein the stiffening ribs support a plurality of protrusions to bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

14. (Currently amended) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 212, wherein the outer peripheral portion of the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of circumferentially spaced protrusions to bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

15. (Previously presented) In combination, a mat fastener and a floor mat with a hole therethrough for receiving the mat fastener, wherein the mat fastener comprises:

a female grommet having a flange engaging one side of the mat and a tube projecting from the flange and inserted in the hole of the mat, the flange having an annular

concavity therein surrounding the tube and facing said one side of the mat; and

a male grommet having a flange engaging an opposite side of the mat and a tube projecting from the flange and inserted into the tube of the female grommet, and wherein:

the grommets have engagement means for retaining the tube of the male grommet in the tube of the female grommet, and

a portion of the mat is received in the concavity of the female grommet.

16. (Previously presented) The combination of Claim 15, wherein the female grommet has a plurality of protrusions that bite into the mat.

17. (Currently amended) The combination of Claim 15, wherein the flange of the male grommet has an annular concavity therein surrounding the tube of the male grommet and facing said opposite side of the mat, and wherein a portion of the mat is sandwiched between the concavities of the grommets also received in the concavity of the male grommet.

18. (Previously presented) The combination of Claim 15, wherein the flange of the female grommet has a plurality

of radial, circumferentially spaced stiffening ribs formed in the concavity between the tube and an outer peripheral portion of the flange of the female grommet.

19. (Previously presented) The combination of Claim 18, wherein the stiffening ribs support a plurality of protrusions that bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

20. (Previously presented) The combination of Claim 18, wherein the outer peripheral portion of the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of circumferentially spaced protrusions that bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

21. (Previously presented) The combination of Claim 15, wherein at least one of the female and male grommet flanges includes a pin that bites into the mat to prevent relative rotation between the outer and inner tubes.